

**Weekly Status & Information Report:**  
**Week of February 11 - February 15, 2008**

**1. Affordable Housing - Public/Private Sector Roundtable:** HCD staff attended the 4th annual Public/Private Sector Roundtable discussion on "Affordable Housing at Transit-Oriented Sites: Success Stories and New Possibilities" on Monday, February 11. The discussion focused on affordable housing as it relates to mass transportation hubs, emphasizing how the creation of new and the preservation of existing affordable and market rate housing at transit-oriented sites is a critical component to addressing the housing crisis in Montgomery County. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**2. Takoma Junction Intersection Feasibility Study (Wards 2 and 3):** The State Highway Administration's feasibility study for the roundabout at the Takoma Junction intersection has been completed and is now posted on the City's website. The study is the first of a series of steps to be undertaken in developing a viable solution to address traffic, pedestrian, transit, and economic issues at the Junction. The State Highway Administration has been asked to develop a process by which it can gather public comments on the completed study and to generate and evaluate alternative solutions. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**3. Focus Takoma Meeting on Commercial Development (Wards 1 and 3):** Housing and Community Development staff attending a meeting for residents to listen to and ask questions of several large property owners, Old Takoma Business Association/Main Street Takoma, Historic Takoma, and City officials regarding commercial businesses in Old Town. Each party presented their efforts to reduce vacancies and improve the business climate in Old Takoma as well as to share their perspectives on the issue. The meeting was sponsored by OTRA, WACO and Victory Tower. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**4. Maple Avenue/Sligo Creek Parkway/Hilltop Road Intersection Reconfiguration (Wards 4 and 5):** Planning and Public Works staff organized a public meeting on February 13th to discuss the reconfiguration of the intersection of Maple Avenue and Hilltop Road where they meet Sligo Creek Parkway in order to provide a safer crossing for pedestrians. The project is funded through the Safe Routes to School program. Traffic cones were set up at the intersection to evaluate aspects of a reconfiguration proposal. *(Public Works)*

**5. Takoma Metro:** Hold the date for Wednesday, March 19 from 6:00pm - 8:30pm for your opportunity to help advise the Takoma Park City Council on the positions the Council should take regarding development at the Takoma Metro station. Look for detailed information in the next Takoma Park newsletter. *(Deputy City Manager)*

**6. Free Poetry Workshop for Middle School Students:** The second in a series of free poetry workshops for students will be offered by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker beginning on Thursday, February 26. The upcoming workshops are designed for middle school students - beginners and experienced writers alike. For more information, please email the Arts and Humanities Commission at [ahc@takomagov.org](mailto:ahc@takomagov.org) or call 301-891-7224. *(Housing and Community Development)*

**7. Call for Public Art - Proposals Due Friday, February 22:** The Arts & Humanities Commission is seeking proposals for public art projects from artists (of all disciplines and mediums), community members and neighborhood associations. The Commission encourages applicants to think of the city as a blank canvas and decide what public art projects would best embody the creative spirit and rich history of our community. The deadline for submissions is Friday, February 22, 2008. Details can be found at <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/documents/publicartcall.pdf>. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**8. Third Thursday poetry reading - Thursday, February 21:** The "floor is open" for this month's "third Thursday" poetry reading. Poets of all ages and experience are encouraged to read their work on Thursday, February 21 at 7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. (*Housing and Community Development*)

**9. Officers in Meetings:**

- On February 12, two CSAFE staff members were facilitators for the "Youths Speak Out Forum" at the Long Branch Community Center.
- On February 14, Chief Ricucci attended the monthly meeting of the Crossroads Development Authority (CDA) to discuss security cameras, crime trends and day laborer problems. (*Police*)

**10. Traffic Enforcement:** Officers conducted at least 85 traffic stops, which resulted in some citations, three (3) vehicle impounds and five (5) arrests. During the week of February 8-14, the following details were completed:

- Ethan Allen Avenue (speeding) - conducted four (4) details for three (3) hours and issued four (4) warnings and two (2) state citations.
- Elm Avenue at Lincoln Avenue (traffic circle) - conducted three (3) details for three (3) hours and issued one (1) warning and two (2) state citations for other violations.
- Maple Avenue at Sligo Creek Parkway - conducted two (2) details for two (2) hours - no enforcement was necessary.
- Hammond Avenue at Lockney Avenue (traffic circle) - conducted one (1) detail for two (2) hours and issued three (3) warnings. (*Police*)

**11. Cupcakes and Poetry Teen Program:** On Wednesday, February 13, the Recreation Department's teen program held a "Cupcakes and Poetry" program. Approximately 25 youth attended the event ranging in age from 11 - 18. Alpha and Hidowah Corneh were the headliners for the show. They rocked the audience with improvisational poetry and were asked to come back later for an encore performance! Teen staff, Clayton White and Allega Coates-Wallace, read two of their original poems and led a discussion about the importance of poetry in our society. (*Recreation*)

**12. Golden Valentines:** On Thursday, February 14, 40 seniors had a rockin' fun time at the Valentine's Dance Party at Victory Tower. The event, co-sponsored by Takoma Park Recreation Department and Victory, had great food, music and dancing. Shirley Miller, a Victory Tower resident, won first prize in the Valentine ribbon length guessing game. Thanks to Barbara Crawford and her staff for hosting this great event. (*Recreation*)

**13. Golfing in Takoma Park:** Matt Poorman, of the Recreation Department, met with a representative from the First Tee Program about the possibilities of offering golf instructions to interested kids of Takoma Park. Golf instructions (as well as lessons on

the values of sportsmanship and other First Tee principles) can be offered at various courses in the area, the closest being Sligo Creek Golf Course. Planning is under way to make this program available through the Recreation Department in the spring/summer. *(Recreation)*

14. **Jazz Band:** City TV video crews covered the Jazz Band Brawl last Sunday, Feb. 10. Three great bands competed for the "Jammie" award. Performances from this event will start airing in March. *(City TV)*

15. **Maintaining Our Trees:** Arbor Care will begin the annual tree maintenance pruning program. Their work area will include parts of the City west of Sligo Creek Parkway. Excel Tree Service will also be starting the pruning program east of Sligo Creek Parkway in the following week. *(Public Works)*